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Title: Need to set up an ESI hospital in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (KANYAKUMARI) : It is a matter of pride that Union Government have set up many superspecialty ESI hospitals and medical institutions throughout the country to cater the needs of thousands of insured persons. The treatment given by the ESI hospitals is equal to the treatment given by any five star corporate hospital and even better than that.

I would like to mention that there are about 65,000 insured persons with 2 lakh family members who are employed mainly in cashew industries and fishnet manufacturing industries in lowly paid jobs in Kanyakumari district. Many women workers in the cashew industries are affected by cancer in the chest due to their occupation. There are no proper ESI dispensaries or hospitals for these poor workers, who belong to underprivileged and weaker sections of the society.

The insured persons and their family have to travel 250 kms. away to the nearest hospital at Sivakasi to get quality treatment. Another ESI hospital is being set up at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu which is also more than 120 kms. away from Kanyakumari district.

Tie-up hospitals do not provide adequate medical facilities to the insured persons and these hospitals treat poor worker against payment, even though it is a free treatment. Therefore, there is an urgent need to set up a 200 bed ESI hospital in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu to cater the needs of the insured persons and their family members.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to consider and take proper measures for setting up of a 200 bed ESI hospital in Kanyakumari district urgently for the poor and downtrodden workers of this area which is a long pending demand of the people.